HAK, SCOW CROFT, L.L.

PARIS AFP REPORTS U.S.
PILOTS ENROUTE TO VERHEL

FBIS 83 FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

U.S. PHANTOM PILOTS REPORTEDLY ON THEIR WAY TO ISRAEL

M121116 PARIS AFP IN ENGLISH 1100 GMT 12 OCT 73 M

(TEXT) MADRID, OCT 12 (AFP) -- ABOUT 150 AMERICAN PHANTOM FIGHTER PILOTS, VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR, PASSED THROUGH MADRID YESTERDAY EN ROUTE FOR ISRAEL ABOARD A COMMERCIAL AIRLINER, THE NEWSPAPER YA REPORTED TODAY.

THE PAPER SAID THAT THE PILOTS, WHO WERE TRAVELLING AS TOURISTS, HAD APPARENTLY BEEN HIRED BY THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE.

12 OCT 1249Z SKIPVSFE